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# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Youth Conferences booked solid for '05

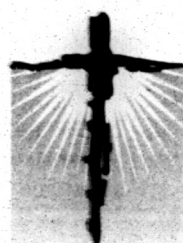
By Micki Bennett  
 Correspondent

SINCE 1877

JUNE 23, 2005

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MISSISSIPPI  
 BAPTISTS

Members of nearly 200 Baptist churches, primarily from Mississippi, will travel this summer to Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian for the seven Mississippi Baptist Youth Conference weeks.

Each Youth Conference at Mississippi Baptist's Gulf Coast beachside campground brings an average of 500 students for the five-day camp, while a summer faculty of 22 college-age students lead campers in daily Bible study and recreation. Morning devotions and nightly worship services are important elements in the week, which is designed for spiritual growth.

Gulfshore Assembly Manager Frank Simmons said the youth conferences have been booked solid with the exception of the first conference on May 23-27, which may have come too close to the end of the school year in some areas of the state.

The theme of this year's youth conference weeks is, "Walk" focusing on Micah 6:8b — "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Ashley Thomas, faculty coordinator for the youth weeks, said the theme is an invitation, not a command. "'Walk' is the visual image of what Micah 6:8 is asking us to do," she said.

Each Bible study is about a different group of people with whom Jesus walked daily, such as his family, sinners, the sick, and even his best friends. "The Bible studies are very objective and the camp pastor brings in the personal application," she said.

Each week, a varied combination of speakers and worship leaders guide the youth in worship services. The weeks offer a quality summer camp experience in which smaller churches can participate inexpensively.

"Our reputation in Mississippi and with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board bring back people in our home state every year," said Thomas, who also serves as program director. "We offer a neat combination of free time and spiritual development."

First-time faculty member Jonathan Barlow, a member of Morrison Heights Church in Clinton, said that when he teaches the Bible studies to his group of youth he tries to show the youth the examples of how Jesus walked every day. "It can be difficult," he said, "but Jesus did it, so we can too."

Barlow said that at camp many of the students come already having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. "A lot of



BEFORE GOD — Will Reedy (standing), worship leader for the June 3-7 session of the seven-week Mississippi Baptist Youth Conference schedule at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian, leads attendees in prayer and worship on the final night of the camp. (BR photo by Micki Bennett)

them just need to have fun and be disciplined this week."

He recounted a specific circumstance with a camper in his group who suffered a speech impediment. "If ever I needed a right answer, it came from Mike (not his real name); he was the most grounded in his walk with Christ," Barlow said that God blessed Mike in spite of his physical disability, and he showed the other students that week that the Christian life is all about attitude.

"The experience has been challenging — not a lot of sleep or self-time — but the reward has been that Christ will bless your efforts and give you what you need," Barlow said.

"I have been bringing my students to GBA (Gulfshore Assembly) Youth Weeks for the past five years. GBA puts on the best camps in this part of the country. It is a very controlled environment with just enough craziness to keep the attention of today's teenager. The speakers always challenge us and the worship leaders are always top notch professionals," said Mark Kelly, student pastor at Emmanuel Church, Greenville, who termed the youth week experience "second to none."

Though a main purpose of the camps is to present the Gospel, third-time faculty member Mandy Humphries of First Church Oloh near Sumrall said that there is no pressure put on students to

make these types of decisions. Every week, however, many students at camp make professions of faith, Christian life or vocational commitments, and rededications at the nightly worship services.

"I want God to take his time. Lots of campers come to the altar to pray... we lead them to their youth pastors who will disciple them when they leave camp," Humphries said. "It's awesome to see so many kids make decisions for Christ. It fills me up and gives me the energy I need for the next week of campers," she said.

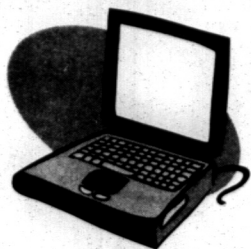
Gulfshore Assembly is one of the three campgrounds owned and operated by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB). The others are Central Hills Retreat, the Royal Ambassadors campground near Kosciusko, and Camp Garaywa, the Girls in Action campground in Clinton.

The seven Mississippi Baptist Youth Conferences at Gulfshore Assembly are coordinated by the MBCB Youth Ministry Team, and supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program and fees paid by attendees.

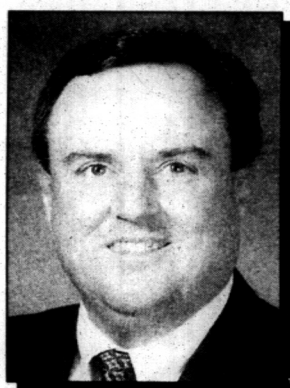
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# To live or die in America

The much-anticipated results of the autopsy on Terri Schiavo, the brain-damaged Florida woman who died March 31 after a protracted battle for her life between her husband and parents, were released on June 15. The report contained few surprises. Schiavo was clinically in a persistent vegetative state.

Pinellas-Pasco County Medical Examiner Jon Thogmartin said that Schiavo indeed suffered massive damage from which she could never recover when she collapsed in February of 1990. Thogmartin could find no conclusive evidence of what brought on the collapse.

"The brain weighed 615 grams, roughly half of the expected weight of a human brain," Thogmartin told reporters. "This damage was irreversible, and no amount of therapy or treatment would have regenerated the massive loss of neurons."

Thogmartin also said the brain damage had rendered her blind, and 15 years as an invalid had resulted in severe osteoporosis. "Removal of her feeding tube would have resulted in

her death whether she was fed or hydrated by mouth or not," he said.

So much for the medical evidence. "We knew all along that Terri was profoundly brain damaged. We simply wanted to bring her home and care for her," said Schiavo's brother Bobby.

Aside from arcane intellectual debates over her quality of life, her long-term medical outlook, and the chilling culture of death that surrounded Terri Schiavo in her final weeks, there's really a clear bottom line.

Her husband, who gave up on Schiavo's life, moved in with another woman, and

fathered two children while his wife languished for years in a care facility, received a large malpractice award in his wife's case and advocated her death as something she would have wanted. Her family, with nothing to gain financially or otherwise, wanted to take her home and care for her until her natural demise, whenever that occurred.

Who was right? It seems her husband desired the power of life and death over her, while her family wanted to leave her passing in God's hands and simply provide for her until that day came. The answer appears straightforward to Christians, but we live in a complex world today.

Progress in medical science has blurred end-of-life issues in many cases. It is possible through technology to keep people alive who otherwise likely would not survive their original injury or disease. It is possible to keep such people alive for extended periods of time. It is permissible, however, to hasten the death of such people?

Modern America has a terribly skewed view of life, and God's role in the giving and taking life. It's perfectly allowable to take a baby's life before it is born, but not a split second after it is born. The lives of death

row inmates, who have committed some of the most heinous crimes known to man, are more valuable than unborn children's lives. The elderly and the ill can be euthanized to conserve scarce resources, even if they are not all that near to death. The lives of defenseless animals are more important than the lives of defenseless humans.

Perhaps we should simply choose life, and leave the rest up to the One who created life in the first place. It sure would save a lot of time, grief, and money. More importantly, though, it sounds like the Christian thing to do.

## CASTING DOWN STRONGHOLDS

—II CORINTHIANS 10:4



## India murders rattle Christians

*Baptist Press*

Two ministers have been murdered in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh since mid-May in what an All India Christian Council official has called "a very planned way of terrorizing the Christian community," Compass Direct news service reported on June 6.

On June 2, police found the body of Isaac Raju just outside the state capital of Hyderabad in southern India. On May 21, the body of K. Daniel, a preacher from Kummavadi, also was found on the outskirts of Hyderabad.

Sam Paul, national secretary of the All India Christian Council, told Compass, "We don't know what's happening, but we are scared... It's a very planned way of terrorizing the Christian community."

The murders come at a time when All India Christian Council leaders are voicing opposition to a recommendation by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) that India be removed from the list of Countries of Particular Concern (CPC).

Christian leaders have voiced surprise and concern at the recommendation, according to Compass Direct which noted the leaders' ongoing concern over a strong climate of religious hostility.

John Dayal, president of the All India Catholic Union and a member of the National Integration Council of the Government of India, emphasized that the root cause of continuing religious violence is the militant ideology spread by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a Hindu extremist organization.

Dayal pointed to numerous incidents of anti-Christian violence during the past year. Under the Indian constitution, the central government can do little to ensure the protection of religious minorities.

The ongoing violence prompted a delegation of Christian leaders to present an unofficial white paper to the government in March listing more than 200 incidents in which Christians had faced severe harassment or physical attacks during the first quarter of this year.

Among the incidents cited in the Christian leaders' white paper:

- A militant Hindu group in the state of Orissa, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) or World Hindu Council, has threatened to launch a campaign for the dismissal of Christian government officers over an order granting equal rights to tribal Christians, including Christian converts, to receive the same employment and education benefits as tribal people of other faiths.
- The state government of Chhattisgarh announced plans in late March to strengthen existing anti-conversion laws following reports that the numbers of Christian converts in the state is increasing.
- Hindu militants physically attacked 11 Christian families

in the state of Maharashtra on May 15. The families had summoned to a community court and told to renounce their faith. When they refused, family members were beaten with heavy sticks.

- Individuals attacked and beat eight students from the Beersheba Bible College in the state of Pathanamthitta on May 12.
- A crowd of nearly 500 Hindus in Karnataka state attacked a house church in the village of Mangalwarapete on May 1. Assaults sexually molested some of the women present and beat Pastor Paulraj Raju of King Jesus Church until he bled profusely.
- A mob of 200 Hindus in the state of Manipur overpowered a police patrol and set fire to the Believer's Church in the Thoubal district on April 19. Villagers have now asked church members to abandon the premises or "face the consequences."

Compiled by Art Toalston of Baptist Press from Compass Direct reports that included reporting by Satya Kumar. Compass Direct, a news service based in Santa Ana, Ca., focuses on Christians worldwide who are persecuted for their faith. Edited for length.



# CWJC building relationships with God

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP and local reports) — Holding all her worldly possessions in a half-full garbage bag, Dorothy Ray got off the bus from Nebraska with her 14-year-old daughter. She had lost everything: her home, her car, her pride. Her oldest son, who was living in Nashville at the time, invited his mother and siblings to come live with him and his wife and three children — eight people in a three-bedroom apartment.

"For 10 months I slept on the couch at my son's and tried to figure out what I was going to do," she said.

"I was in the deepest depression. I had hit rock bottom and to cope I was drinking."

Ray recently shared her story with attendees of the Tennessee WMU Get Together in Gatlinburg.

"I'm not a speaker. I don't even know all the right words, 'but I have God with me and greater is He that is in me, than he that is in the world!'"

Ray, now age 51, had been a single parent since she was 15 years old. The ninth-grade dropout got her first apartment in the



**SUCCESS STORY** — Barbara Oldham (left) congratulates Dorothy Ray, an alum of the Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) in Nashville, during a recent Tennessee WMU Get Together in Gatlinburg. Ray shared her testimony of how CWJC turned around her life. Oldham served as Ray's CWJC mentor. (ABP photo)

projects at age 16. For all those years, everybody had been looking to her for support and help.

"I did everything for everybody for so long, I lost sight of Dorothy," she admits.

Ray slowly started developing a relationship with God while she was at her son's home alone and reading the

Bible. "I had always believed in Jesus," she said. "One of my earliest memories is my grandmother taking me to church, but I didn't really have a relationship with Him."

Because of this time spent in the Bible and the relationship Ray started developing, she stopped drinking. She began praying that God would give her direction and an opportunity to go back to school. Doors started opening.

"I think I had to go down to come up," said Ray. "I stopped asking God why. Why was I taken away from my parents at age 9? Why did my mother die when I was young? Why had I lost everything? I realized it didn't matter. He was there for me all along."

She had been sending in applications for housing during the time she was living with her son. She soon met a social worker who pointed her to the Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) in Nashville as a resource for getting her general education diploma (GED).

Almost two years ago, Ray set as her top goal the receipt of her GED. She took the test on April 23 and passed most of the requirements, but came up just short.

"It's a privilege for me to take it. I look at all the younger women around me taking it who haven't been out of school as long as I have and they're flunking and getting discouraged and quitting — but not me. I'm going to continue. If I want my GED, I've got to go out and get it!"

Though she didn't get it on the first attempt, she is working toward her next attempt. She readily admits math has been her toughest subject. "I'm going to keep studying and

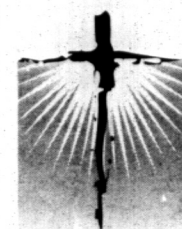
keep taking it until I pass it," she said with determination.

She continues to work on the computer given to her by CWJC, a ministry of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention and state WMU organizations designed to help equip needy women and men for life and employment.

"I was one of about five or six who got computers from Christian Women's Job Corps last year," she said. "My daughter-in-law got it hooked up for me and showed me the basics. She got me online and I was able to learn to use e-mail."

As a result, Ray was able to communicate with her son Anthony while he was serving in the armed forces in Iraq. "That was a real blessing," she added.

The Mississippi WMU administers a thriving CWJC program at a number of locations around



MISSISSIPPI  
**BAPTISTS**

**THE SECOND  
FRONT PAGE**

*Record* THE BAPTIST

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the state, staffed by volunteers from local Mississippi Baptist churches and supported by gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering and the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

When women become a part of the CWJC program, they are paired with a mentor. "Our mentors are vital to the success of our women," said Rebekah Sumrall, executive director of Nashville's CWJC. "They meet at least one hour a week with the women they are mentoring and provide encouragement, guidance, hope, and friendship. They help our women stay on track in working toward and meeting their goals."

For more information on the Mississippi CWJC, contact Tammy Anderson, Mississippi WMU, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3323 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 323. E-mail: tanderson@mbcb.org.

## Judge questions ruling

WASHINGTON (BP) — Paul Niemeyer's dissent in a recent federal appeals court ruling against Virginia's ban on partial birth abortion is noteworthy not only for its refutation of the immediate decision but for his warning of the social consequences possibly inherent in it. As a member of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Niemeyer wrote a 28-page opinion in opposition to the three-judge panel's June 3 decision striking down the prohibition on the gruesome procedure. The two-judge majority invalidated the law because it lacked an exception to protect the health of the mother. Calling the ruling a "bold, new law that, in essence, constitutionalizes infanticide of a most gruesome nature," Niemeyer said it is "not compelled by the Constitution, nor by any Supreme Court case" and "amounts to a momentous step in disconnecting our law from accepted moral norms ... Can we not see that our discussions and the law we make in striking down Virginia's prohibition are unfit for the laws of a people of liberty?" Niemeyer wrote. "I wonder with befuddlement, fear, and sadness, how we can so joyfully celebrate the birth of a child, so zealously protect an infant and a mother who is pregnant, so reverently wonder about how human life begins, grows, and develops and at the same time write to strike down a law to preserve ... a partially born infant. If the disconnect is explained by personal convenience, then we must reason that all morality is personal, without commonality and source. The product of such chaos is unfathomable." Niemeyer, nominated by the first President Bush in 1990, said overturning the law "in the name of" constitutionally protected liberty "should make us question whether we understand liberty, or if we do, whether we are tarring it with the color of political ideology that tarred the national ideals of other ages when immoral laws were imposed by ideological commands. It provides us no cover to assert vacuously that we are doing what the Supreme Court commands. The truth remains open for all to see that we are doing not what is required by law ... but what we will." In a partial birth abortion, a doctor normally delivers an intact baby, feet first, until only the head is left in the birth canal. The doctor pierces the base of the infant's skull with surgical scissors, then inserts a catheter into the opening and suctions out the brain. The collapse of the skull provides for easier removal of the baby's head.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

The Southern Baptist Convention's resolution apologizing for racism — hailed by many as an instrument for healing — creates friction with some African-American Baptists not affiliated with the SBC.

### 20 years ago

Columbus native C. E. Autry, former director of evangelism for the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board, is named outstanding alumnus by New Orleans Seminary.

### 50 years ago

During the recent Simultaneous Revival Crusade, 2583 persons were baptized into the membership of Mississippi Baptist churches in 31 reporting associations, according to figures released by W. R. Roberts, interim executive secretary-treasurer.





#### YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

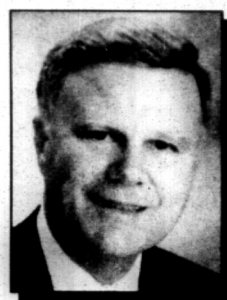
If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

#### CHANGED LIPS

Recently, I was at a church that had written these words on the sign below their church name, **where God is praised and lives are changed.** They had tags made that you could put on the front of your truck or car advertising their church and giving an indication of what you would experience if you went there.

As I stood and looked at one of the cars that had the tag affixed to the front, I wondered what does that mean. Now the reason I was somewhat perplexed is because some bugs had hit the front of the car and some of them had given their life on that car tag. One dear bug had so splattered that it made the "v" in lives appear to be a "p," and so just with my casual glance at the car tag it had the name of the church and it read, "Where God is praised and lips are changed." I know that the word is spelled **lips** and not **lipes**, but just in a moment of time my brain didn't pickup on that part. I walked closer to observe and saw the addition of the bug, and then I stood there contemplating how good it would be if the bug interpretation was the way it actually is in all of our churches — places **where God is praised and lips are changed.**

You can look in almost any direction in scripture and you will quickly discover that it is abusive, unruly, uncontrolled, hate-filled, and anger driven language that does so much damage to the Kingdom of God. James in his little epistle tells us pointblank that "The tongue is an unruly evil and it is a fire set on fire of hell." Lips



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

can destroy more than the good that our hands, our hearts, and our highest ambitions can achieve.

Do you remember as a child hearing someone say, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me?" Well, let me tell you that is an absolute lie. Sticks, stones, and broken bones do not even come close to the pain experienced from hurtful and harmful words. The God who is able to save our souls is also able to save our lips. In fact, He saves all of us. He can take a rotten attitude and renew it, sweeten it, and astound people with the change that He makes. He can take frayed, broken, and ruined emotions and revitalize and reignite them in wholesome and healthy ways. He can save feet that may have been walking with the wrong crowd, going in the wrong direction, and put them on a solid rock and moving to a place that will help others. He saves the total person including our lips. In fact, when He changes our hearts it does something to our lips. For the scripture says, "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh."

Whatever it is that is dredged up and flows out of our mouths will reveal to everyone around us what our

hearts are like. It is only by the redemptive power of Jesus that our lips can be changed. Let me suggest some things that the Lord can use to help us have different lips.

**Strain our words.** I mean by that to do as the Psalmist says and ask God to put a guard on our lips. Do not just say everything. Have a spiritual filter that allows God to remove those things that should not be there and only let the words pass through our lips that He can use to bless others and bring honor to Him. Have you ever heard someone say, "I believe in just telling it like it is?" Well, if that means being honest and even straightforward, that is fine. When we are wrapped up in emotion, fired up, and fueled by anger we do not need to blurt out everything that is passing through our brain. God help us!

**Another thing that would be helpful for us to do with our speech is to refrain.** There are just some things that the Lord could help us shift out of our brain and set as off limits so they do not pass through our lips. It is impossible for me to remember all of the times I have been in a group of people where someone would say something that should not be said — a curse word or a foul utterance. Then later they

would apologize to me saying, "I didn't know you were a preacher." I always find that interesting because it says that they have sensitivity about the things they say, but they just do not refrain for their own good and for their own good testimony. I often want to say, "Well, it is not me that you need to apologize to it is the Lord." But I also believe that they ought to think enough of themselves to refrain from saying those kinds of things that are inappropriate, out of place, and even hurtful to others.

**A final thought is that it would help our lips if we would retrain.** Do you remember in the Sermon on the Mount when the Lord said, "Bless them that curse you." To me one of the most practical and incredible things that Jesus ever spoke is right there. For what the Lord instructed us to do as His Kingdom followers is when someone says something evil, mean, despicable, and demeaning to us we should respond by saying something good, right, noble, and encouraging to them. We are not told to fight fire with fire, evil with evil, or match mean words with cruel words. The Christian is called into the seminar of Jesus to retrain their lips. Our response to the speech of others ought to be good things, godly things, Christ honoring things, and helpful things. Would it not be a wonderful thing for all of our churches to become places of worship and praise? Families of faith where God is praised and lips are changed.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

## So. Baptist leaders commend LMCO giving

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Following a year when giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions (LMCO) shattered old records and removed appointment restrictions, Southern Baptists raised nearly that amount again by giving almost \$134 million to overseas missions.

When the books closed on the 2004 offering May 31, Southern Baptists had given \$133,886,221.58. The amount fell just short of the previous year's \$136 million total and short of the \$150 million goal.

Despite the shortfall, it was the offering's second-largest total in its 115-year history to support more than 5,200 missionaries on the field. On the heels of the Lottie Moon emphasis and in the months following, Southern Baptists also gave more than \$16.3 million to relief efforts after a tsunami struck parts of southern Asia and the Pacific Rim regions Dec. 26, 2004.

"We are overwhelmed with this testimony of Southern Baptists' heart for missions and

desire to reach our world for Jesus Christ," said Jerry Rankin, a native Mississippian and president of the International Mission Board (IMB). "We were able to remove restrictions on the number of missionaries being appointed after the record offering [in 2003] but were concerned about whether or not that level of support would be sustained."

"While the slight reduction in the amount given does not enable us to move forward as much as we had anticipated, we will stretch the dollars and do all we can to use it to push back the edge of lostness."

With more missionary candidates than ever before seeking appointment, Rankin challenged Southern Baptists to reach this year's \$150 million goal.

"Opportunities to literally touch the whole world are unprecedented," he said. "Whether or not we are able to seize these open doors and increase our numbers of missionaries is contingent on Southern Baptists meeting our goal this year."

Mississippi Baptists gave \$7,976,658 to the 2004 offering.

Wanda Lee, executive director/treasurer of Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention, also commended Southern Baptists for their sacrificial giving in support of international missions.

"As local churches strengthen their focus on missions, it is exciting to see an increasing number of Christians grow in their understanding that the Great Commission is a personal mandate to each one of us," Lee said.

"In her final address in 1938, former WMU leader Annie Armstrong said, 'After the study of God's Word comes the study of the fields. Then people pray, then they give.' Her words still hold true today," Lee said. "Developing a worldview through strong and thriving missions programs and initiatives is vital in Baptist churches. Through increased knowledge and awareness of the needs around our world, we can pray more effectively and will be convicted to financially and prayerfully support those who are called to full-time missions."

## No BR issue on July 7

Due to postal regulations that limit The Baptist Record to 50 issues per year, the newspaper will not publish on July 7. Churches and organizations wishing to publish news and announcements in The Baptist Record should take note of these deadlines:

All news items requested for inclusion in the issue of June 30 must be in the offices of The Baptist Record by the close of business on June 23. All news items requested for inclusion in the issue of July 14 must be in the offices of The Baptist Record by the close of business on July 7.

For information on how to submit news and announcements to The Baptist Record, please turn to the bottom of page 11 of this issue.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 23, 2005

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Communication Services**.

## FLAKE'S FORMULA FOR THE FUTURE

*Building an Acts 1:8 Sunday School through Bible Study*

### SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR ALL AGE GROUPS

*Each location will have the following age group trainings: Younger Preschool, Older Preschool, Younger Children, Middle Children, Older Children, Younger Youth, Older Youth, Younger Adult, Middle Adult, Senior Adult, General Officers, and Pastors*

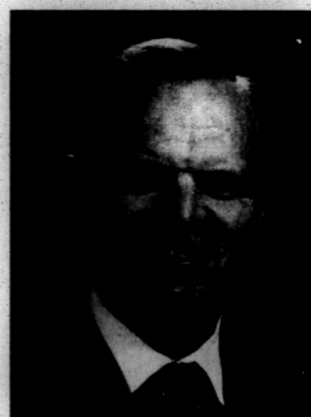


**July 29-30, 2005**

**6:30-9 p.m., 29th – 8:30-noon, 30th  
Longview Heights Baptist Church  
Olive Branch, Mississippi**

#### **SPECIAL GUEST: GENE MIMS**

*Mims serves as President of the International Baptist Network in Atlanta, GA. He has served as a pastor for over 20 years and more recently as the vice president for LifeWay Church Resources. Mims has authored seven books including Kingdom Principles of Church Growth and The Kingdom Focused Church.*



**August 5-6, 2005**

**6:30-9 p.m., 5th – 8:30-noon, 6th  
Ridgecrest Baptist Church  
Madison, Mississippi**

#### **SPECIAL GUEST: AKEN HEMPHILL**

*Hemphill serves as National Strategist for Empowering Kingdom Growth in Nashville, Tenn. He has authored many books including EKG...the Heartbeat of God and Revitalizing the Sunday Morning Dinosaur.*



**October 21-22, 2005**

**6:30-9 p.m., 21st – 8:30-noon, 22nd  
First Baptist Church  
Biloxi, Mississippi**

#### **SPECIAL GUEST: KEN MARLER**

*Marler serves as Sunday School Growth Specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention. While serving at LifeWay Church Resources he authored How to Plan and Conduct Multiple Sunday Schools. Rev. Marler has authored Sunday School Growth Points while at the Tennessee Baptist Convention.*

#### **Friday Night Schedule:**

Worship Rally	6:30-7:45 p.m.
Conference I	8:00-9:00

#### **Saturday Morning Schedule:**

Continental Breakfast	8:30-9:00 a.m.
Conference II	9:00-10:15
Conference III	10:30-noon

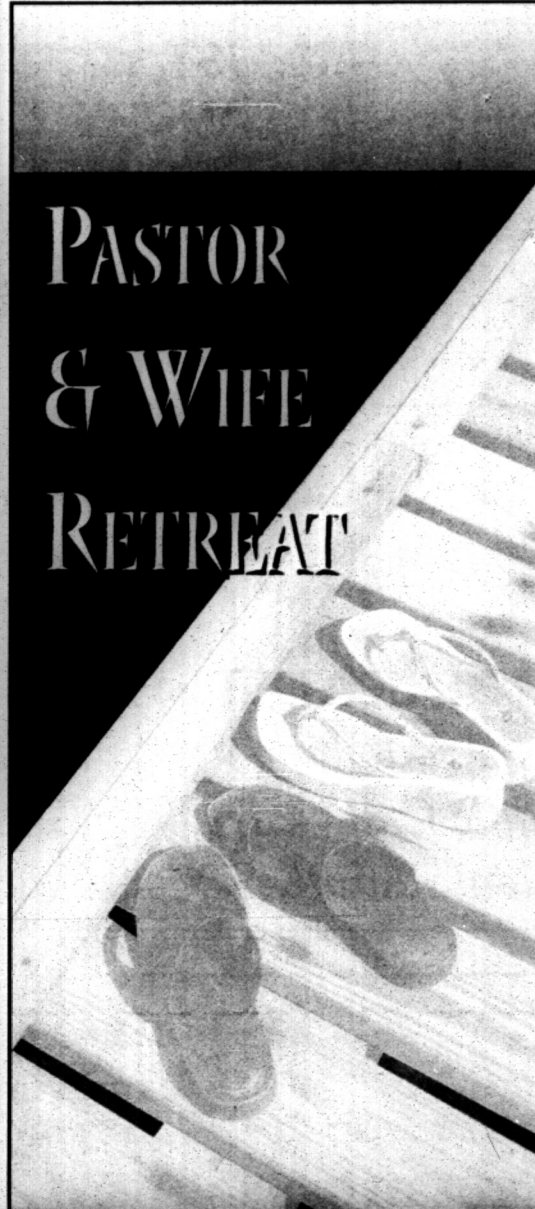
For more info, contact the Sunday School Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3291



# When God's People Pray



## PASTOR & WIFE RETREAT



July 14-16, 2005  
Gulfshore Baptist  
Assembly

### LEADERS

*Dr. and Mrs. Gene Henderson*



*Blake Scafidel and Oil  
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To provide a time of encouragement,  
inspiration and fellowship for pastors  
and wives.

### CHILD CARE

Supervised care will be made available  
for preschoolers, children and youth.

### RESERVATION AND REGISTRATION

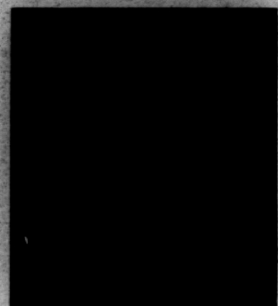
Participation is limited to the first hun-  
dred (100) couples who register for this  
retreat. This number is based on the  
available private accommodations at  
Gulfshore. Registration must be made  
with Gulfshore, 228-452-7261.

### COST

For 2 nights lodging and 6 meals:  
Adults: \$97.75 per person; Ages 12 & up:  
\$56.55 per person; Ages 2-11: \$33.28 per  
person; age 2 and under, no cost.

There is no conference fee. Gulfshore  
accepts VISA and MasterCard.

For more program info, contact the  
Pastor/Leadership Development Department  
601-292-3305 or 1-800-748-1651.



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Clinician**  
Beth Coleman  
Winter Park, Fla.



**Younger Children  
Clinician**  
Keith Pate  
Anastasia BC  
St. Augustine, Fla.



**Older Children  
Clinician**  
Pamela Vandewalker  
Johnson Ferry BC  
Marietta, Ga.



**Coordinators  
Clinician**  
Neva Haley  
FBC  
Broken Arrow,  
Okla.



**Youth Music  
Clinician**  
Charlie Martin  
North Park BC  
Trussville, Ala.



The new Children's Music Series literature has a new format. It will be released for the fall, 2005, choir year.  
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For more info, contact Sarah Talley in the Church Music Department, 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3271





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## wMu Church Missions Leadership Training

### AUGUST 23, FBC, AMORY

6:00 p.m. Registration & Fellowship  
6:30 Theme Interpretation  
7:15-8:00 Conference Session #1  
8:15-9:00 Conference Session #2  
For directions call FBC, Amory  
662-256-7131

### AUGUST 30, MAIN STREET BC HATTIESBURG

Same schedule as Amory  
For directions call Main Street BC  
601-296-800

### AUGUST 26-27, CAMP GARAYWA CLINTON

#### FRIDAY

3:00-5:00 p.m. Check-in  
6:00-6:00 Dinner  
6:15-7:30 Worship  
7:45-9:00 "It's Your Serve"  
Missional Planning

#### SATURDAY

7:30-8:15 a.m. Breakfast  
8:30-9:00 Missionary Moments  
9:15-10:00 Conference Session 1  
10:15-11:00 Conference Session 2  
11:15-noon Conference 3  
12:15 Lunch and Closing  
1:00-2:30 Team Planning

REGISTRATION DEADLINE AUGUST 19, 2005

For more info or a registration form, call the wMu at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3324.

## Pastor & Staff Excellence in the Acts 1:8 Church

August 15  
Hillcrest BC, New Albany

August 16  
Calvary BC, Greenwood

August 22  
Hillcrest BC, Jackson

August 23  
38th Ave. BC, Hattiesburg

Pastor/Leadership Development Dept.  
Call 601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305, for more information.

8:30 a.m. Coffee & Registration  
8:50 a.m. Welcome  
Keith Gordon  
9:00 a.m. Acts 1:8 Overview  
Steve Stone/David Michel  
10:00 a.m. Break  
10:30 a.m. Spiritual Empowerment  
Ken Lyle  
10:50 a.m. Church Expansion  
Kiely Young  
11:10 a.m. Evangelistic Awareness  
David Alexander  
11:30 a.m. Mission Kingdom Advance  
Ken Rhodes  
11:50 a.m. Prayer  
12:00 LUNCH  
(Compliments of P/LD)  
1:00 p.m. Worship & Commitment -  
Jimmy Porter

2005

## Professional Certification for Ministry Assistants and Ministry Office SkillShops

September 13-15  
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

Brochure coming in July

Certification leader: Lana Rose

For more info: Kay McDonnell, 1-800-748-1651, Ext. 305, or 601-292-3305 or E-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

## The SkillShops leader: Sandy Sigmon

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### OFFICE TEAMWORK

Is it a joy to work in your office? Are your co-workers also your friends? Learn to build healthy working relationships based on respect and trust. Office Teamwork will enable you to sharpen your communication skills for better understanding and help you handle difficult people and awkward situations. You will find out how you and your boss can become a more effective team and how to give strengthening encouragement to the troubled minister.



# Pray this day for...

June 24-July 14, 2005

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"By God's grace we must learn to meet Him in private prayer. By His grace we must learn to meet together in group prayer. We must take the maps of cities, states, countries - of the entire world - weep over them in believing prayer. It is then that the fruit of evangelism will come forth."

## THE ULTIMATE WEAPON By George Verwer

At a retreat held for the Cantonese of the Dominican Republic on April 24, a brother was baptized. Before the baptism, he was asked if he had decided to trust in the Lord all his life. He replied loudly, "Yes!" After giving his first offering, his salary was raised! Please pray for him as he grows and witnesses for the Lord.

For: (1) Citizenship & Religious Liberty (CAC Emphasis); (2) Family Enrichment Conference, Gulfshore, 3rd-7th (D&FM); (3) Pray for D. He is the son of a chief in Togo and has been a believer for over a year. He has been leading a new work in his own village and has begun a Bible study in a neighboring village. Pray for his wife to be supportive.

For: (1) Toward a Growing Marriage (Gary Chapman), Gracewood BC, Southaven, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. (D&FM); (2) Ellen Cone serves as a MSC children's pastor at Mountain View Christian Fellowship in Calgary, Canada. Pray for the VBS and sports camp this summer, that children and their families will be impacted and many will come to know Jesus.

For: (1) Summer Missions Camp for Boys, Central Hills, 27th-July 1st (MM); (2) GA Summer Camp, Camp Garaywa, 27th-July 1st (WMU); (3) Frank Shope, church and community ministries consultant, Baptist Convention of New Mexico requests prayer for volunteers in six outreach centers as they share the gospel with people in economic crises.

For: (1) INDEPENDENCE DAY, (2) Pray for the husband and children of a zealous young Wolof believer in Senegal. She has volunteered to have a prayer meeting in her home, even though her landlord has stated that no Christian will ever sleep on his compound. Pray that the landlord will come to Christ.

For: (1) Super Summer, Mississippi College, Clinton, noon, 11th-noon, 15th (Youth Ministry); (2) Summer Missions Camp for Boys, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, 10 a.m., 11th-1 p.m., 15th (MM); (3) GA Summer Camp, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 11th-15th (WMU).

For: (1) HeartSong Youth Music Week, Gulfshore, 28th-July 2nd (CM); (2) Intercede for Baptist representatives serving as part of the North Germanic Cluster of teams, as they seek to reach the goals they set in March. This year they desire to see 1,000 persons come to Christ and to begin 100 new outreach groups.

Praise the Lord for radio broadcasts through which Muslim people groups in various parts of the world are hearing in their heart language the Bible stories of God's redemptive work. Pray for workers to have wisdom to know how best to contact, disciple and plant churches among the listeners who are responding to the Word that God is planting in their hearts.

In May many people joined together to focus on praying for the "walls" to break down around the Somali people of the Horn of Africa. Ask for God to call out people who are willing to learn the difficult language and culture to reach the Somalis. Pray that the government will open up the borders for Christian workers to be able to access Somalis in their country.

The Dinka Team asks: "Please pray for our Kenya missionaries, Nurse W and his wife, J, who minister to the spiritual and health needs of the Dinka people. There are some serious issues that need to be resolved with the local government of southern Sudan as they return to work. Pray that we will have wisdom to give God the glory as we seek solutions to them."

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS, 6th-8th; (2) GA Summer Camp, Camp Garaywa, 6th-8th (WMU); (3) Mary Davis is a MSC coordinator for the 2005 Jericho Project (an intensive evangelism project) in the Tri-cities area of Washington state. The goal is to take the gospel to 15,000 homes the week of July 2-9, 2005. Pray for enough volunteers.

The unprecedented gathering of 200 million Christians, on every continent and in most of the states and provinces of North America, on the Global Day of Prayer May 15 has given us renewed hope that God is indeed bringing revival to His people. Many have been praying for God to draw His people back to our first love, so that the world around us will see Jesus in us.

More than 360 million rural Chinese lack safe drinking water, which causes serious health concerns. Pray that health officials and government authorities will be able to respond expediently to this very basic physical need. More than 1 billion also have not yet drunk the living water that comes through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

For: (1) Bible Drill Camp, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, noon 7th-noon 9th (D&FM); (2) Music Leadership Conference, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, 2 p.m., 7th-1 p.m., 9th (CM); (3) Please pray today for Emperor Akihito of Japan (eastern Asia).

For: (1) Pastor & Wife Retreat, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, 3 p.m., 14th-2 p.m. 16th (P/LD); (2) Ted Elmore is the prayer coordinator for the General Convention of Texas and is associate director of the Missional Church Center. Please pray Philippians 1:9-11 for Ted and Cheryl.

For: (1) GA Mother/Daughter Overnight, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 24th-25th (WMU); (2) Young Musicians Camp, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, 2 p.m., 24th-8 a.m. 25th (CM); (3) Please pray today for Lieutenant Governor John Cheshire of Jersey (island in the English Channel).

George Lewis, Lynch, Ky., is ministry director of Freedom Center/Meridzo Ministries in Kentucky. Please pray for believers to seek first the kingdom in eastern Kentucky, for spiritual awakening in the communities, and for mission volunteer groups to see many accept Jesus Christ.

Pray for the Bridge People of the Pacific Rim who attended the Chronological Bible Storying training conference last month. Ask that they will implement the principles they learned at the conference and that many Bridge People will come to faith in Christ.

Pray that contacts with persons from an unreached people group in Buenos Aires, Argentina, will develop into good and fruitful relationships. Ask the Father to open doors into this group that would lead to many persons being saved and many churches planted.

For: (1) World Changers, Vicksburg, 2nd-9th (MM); (2) The Ayizo Team of Benin writes: "Pray for more laborers among the Ayizo people. Many villages are requesting Bible studies and churches, but we don't have the leadership available to fulfill all of these requests."

For: (1) 1 Centrifuge, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 9th-14th (LCR/SBC); (2) The Ayizo Team of Benin writes: "Pray for more laborers among the Ayizo people. Many villages are requesting Bible studies and churches, but we don't have the leadership available to fulfill all of these requests."

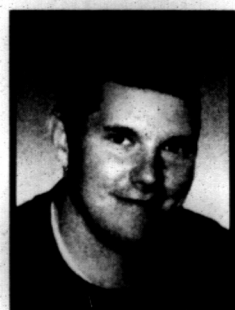


MISSISSIPPI  
July 11-15, 2005

**REGISTER NOW!**



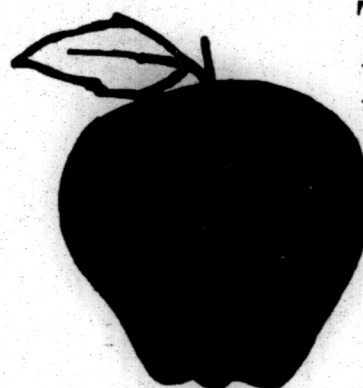
David Platt  
Speaker



Chris Layton  
Worship Leader

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E-mail us at [bbridges@mbcb.org](mailto:bbridges@mbcb.org)



## Teacher Appreciation & PrayerWalk for Schools

SUNDAY  
JULY 31, 2005

- Conduct a commitment service during the morning worship for school teachers and administrators.
- Pray and commission teachers and administrators as they begin the new school year.
- Request specific prayer needs from school administrators and teachers.
- Meet at the church on Sunday afternoon to PrayerWalk and/or prayer drive around the area schools.
- Share the PrayerWalk experiences during the evening service.

For more info, call Kathy Burns in the wMu at  
601-292-3324 or E-mail [KBurns@mbcb.org](mailto:KBurns@mbcb.org)

# HOUSE TOPS



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Deacon Ordination, Eastside Church, Richton



3. St. Jude's Hospital Fundraiser, Blue Lake Church, Lambert



8. Bible Drillers, Dry Creek Church, Simpson Association



11. Bible Drillers, Central Church, McComb

1. **Eastside Church, Richton**, ordained Wayne Felts as deacon on May 22. Shown are Jimmy Gieger, pastor, Wayne Felts, and Bob Goolsby, Perry Association missions director.

2. **Morrison Heights Church, Clinton**, will hold the Mayberry Dinner Theater July 7-9, 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and include the dinner and performance. Proceeds fund mission projects of the church. For reserved seating, call (601) 925-6424.

3. **Blue Lake Church, Lambert**, collected can pop tops for St. Jude's Hospital, collecting 22.12 lbs. Shown are Jess Chadwick with Mallory and Jonathan Chadwick.

4. **First Church, Charleston**, held a commissioning service for two men and their families. Bob and Angie Melton will be attending Southern Seminary and Kevin and Brandi Nelson will be attending Southwestern Seminary. Keith Gordon is interim pastor.

5. **Star Church, Star**, has formed an adult Bible Drill team. The team practiced

on Wednesday evenings, and performed a drill for the senior adult group at a Methodist church in Jackson. The drill group received eleven certificates and seals from the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

6. **Lighthouse Church, Richland**, is hosting a gospel singing June 25, 7 p.m., featuring New Genesis and Clear Branch Quartet.

7. **Hebron Church, Panola Association**, recently honored J. R. Haynes on his 95th birthday as the oldest living member of the church. The church presented Haynes with a plaque, and a cake and ice cream social. Haynes began attending the church in 1948.

8. **Dry Creek Church, Simpson Association**, recognizes their Bible drillers. Shown are the drillers.

9. **Old Oak Grove Church, Myrtle**, held an appreciation day for pastor Gary Linville and his wife Heather. Shown are Linville and Heather Linville.



9. Pastor Appreciation, Old Oak Grove Church, Myrtle



12. Bible Drillers, Cato Church, Rankin Association

10. The Women's Ministry of **Morrison Heights Church, Clinton**, is sponsoring a series of summer studies for women on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. at the church: Bible Study 101-June 27; Missions 101-July 11; Journaling & Note-Writing 101-July 18; Nutrition 101-July 25; Evangelism 101-August 1; Women's Ministry 101-August 8. Sessions are open to the public and there is no fee for non-church members. Registration is necessary, however, and childcare is available by request. Registration for classes and childcare can be made by calling the Church's education office at (601) 925-6424.

11. **Central Church, McComb**, recognizes their state Bible Drill participants. Shown are Josh King, Brent Mercier, Elise Alexander, Michael Anderson, and Colby Hipps.

12. **Cato Church, Cato**, congratulates their 2005 Bible Drill participants. Shown are Kelley Allen, Jamie Hudson, and Kerri McGehee.

### Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004  
copyrighted 2005

MROE DRHZZ UKM ECK  
CKM CP MRO DEBHCQ-  
QKOD: EOH, MRO MSAO  
JCAOMR, MRHM TRCD-  
COLOW YSZZOMR ECK  
TSZZ MRSBY MRHM RO  
NCOMR QCN DOWLSJO.  
XCRB DSBMOOB: MTC

Clue: T = W

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Amos Nine: Two.



## HOMECOMINGS & REVIVALS

**DeSoto Church, DeSoto:** Homecoming and Noteburning Celebration, July 9-10. Fish fry and concert on Saturday and noteburning on Sunday during 11:00 a.m. worship service. Friends and former members are invited to attend.

**Friendship Church, McComb:** Revival, July 8-10; Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 1 p.m.; noon lunch; Steve Jackson, Pearl, evangelist; D. C. Greer, music; LaVerne Summerlin, pastor.

**Trinity Church, Pearl:** Revival, Sun. June 26, 11:00 a.m. Charles Brady, Shelton Church, Shelton, guest speaker; Dan Pardue, Brandon, music.

**Lighthouse Church, Richland:** Revival, June 26-July 1; 7 p.m.; David Parker, evangelist.

**Holly Springs Church, Foxworth:** Revival, June 26-July 1; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on

the grounds and afternoon services; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Hiram Campbell, Improve, speaking; Kevin Crozier, pastor.

**Steele Church, Forest:** Revival, June 26-29; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., with meal following morning worship; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; John Dawson, Howard City, Mi., evangelist; Linda Dawson, special music; David Bradford, other music; Reggie Williams, pastor.

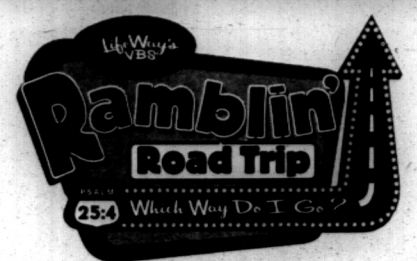
## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**Salem Church, Carthage:** Rambling Road Trip, July 11-15, 6-9 p.m.

**Big Level Church, Wiggins:** June 27-July 1, 6-9 p.m. Children age 4-6th grade. Call (601) 528-9412 for more information.

**Lakeshore Church, Jackson:** Ramblin' Road Trip, June 26-July 1, 5:45-8:45 p.m. Ages 4-12th grade.

**Concord Church, Macon:** July 5-8, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call (662) 726-5220 for information.



## COLLEGE NEWS



Junior High Youth Choir Trip, Blue Mountain College

The junior high youth choir from Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, spent a few days at Blue Mountain College in early June. While on campus, the group helped BMC staff with summer cleanup chores and took a trip to Booneville to perform in one of the local nursing homes. Shown are the participants.



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## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### The Best Is Yet to Be

Philippians 3:20-21; Romans 8:18-25;  
1 Corinthians 15:50-54,57

By Rhoda Royce

*While we walk the pilgrim pathway,  
Clouds will overspread the sky;  
But when trav'ling days are over,  
Not a shadow, not a sigh.*

Eliza Hewitt,  
"When We All Get to Heaven"

Whenever I have traveled overseas, I've clutched my passport, checking it constantly. As much as I enjoy traveling in other countries, I want to be able to get back into my own. I am proud to be a U.S. citizen and grateful for the benefits of that citizenship. On any of these trips, I would have been shocked if I had looked at my passport and discovered myself listed as a citizen of another country. Yet this is what Paul suggests in our ses-

sion this week. As Christians on Earth, we are citizens of heaven! At the end of this life's journey, Jesus Christ will welcome us into the fullness of God's presence and into the place He has provided for us (John 14:2).

**Transformation (Phil. 3:20-21)** — Last week's focus passage stopped in the middle of a scriptural thought, at Philippians 3:19, with a reference to persons who focus on earthly matters. By contrast, Christians should recognize our heavenly citizenship and the privileges it grants. In fact, that heavenly citizenship determines our manner of life. Our heavenly citizenship should make us recognizable wherever we live on Earth. Many Philippians were citizens of Rome and would have



Royce

understood the concept of living in one place with the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in another. So how shall we be transformed? Our Savior, for whom we wait with yearning, is Sovereign. He will transform our dying, earthly bodies into likenesses of His glorious, resurrection body. Questions about specifics in this process are unimportant compared to knowing that we will be in a glorious condition with the Lord.

**Glorious Freedom (Rom. 8:18-25)** — Suffering is a predictable feature of our earthly lives. Many of Paul's repeated times of suffering came about through his service to Christ (2 Cor. 11:23-28). So he was well qualified to judge that these earthly agonies cannot reasonably be compared with the glory of our completed salvation. People have always been willing to endure discomfort, and worse, to get to important destinations. What we will know in

heaven as the redeemed will make anything we endure on Earth seem small. We as God's children and the transformed creation itself will experience His "glorious freedom," the freedom to glorify Him as we were created to do.

What indication do we have now of these wonders? Even now, Christians have the down payment on our salvation, the Holy Spirit, God living within us. He enables us to look forward patiently and with hope to the completion of our redemption.

**Victorious Resurrection (1 Cor. 15:50-54)** — In our natural state, we would meet none of the requirements for entrance into the kingdom of God. We wouldn't make it through immigration. Yet God's redeemed will enter His presence. All believers, whether we are alive at the time of Christ's return or have died, will participate. Trumpets in Scripture often signify important events. This one announces God's final triumph over sin and death. Our last enemy, death, will be completely overpowered, engulfed in God's victory.

**Ultimate Thanksgiving (1 Cor. 15:57)** — Last week, Lee and I welcomed our son home after five months abroad on a student exchange and a long journey home. For months, I had practiced patience with expectation. I also tried not to live in anxiety. When Mark came into view, prayers of thanksgiving were my first order of business, and my joy after the fulfillment of my hope surprised even me. Relatives of armed services members experience all of these emotions much more extremely.

As Christians, we must wait patiently for the ultimate completion of our salvation, but we need not wait to thank God for the victory. It is as certain as if it has already happened. Through Jesus Christ, everything necessary has already been achieved. We will be changed. We will be citizens of heaven, not just here on Earth but in God's presence for eternity. Thanks be to God!

Rhoda Royce is a member of First Church, Clinton.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Accepting Individual Responsibility

Ezekiel 18:1-10, 13b

By Don Schuman

Shifting responsibility is as old as the Garden when Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the serpent, and the serpent didn't have a leg to stand on. Even today, environment, heritage, peer pressure, the devil, and just about everyone and everything else but ourselves is blamed for our sins.

In Ezekiel's day, the people felt that they were being punished for the sins of previous generations. A popular proverb was used to help them dodge their own responsibility. Ezekiel, like Jeremiah, declared what God had to say about responsibility for sin.

#### 1. Dodging Responsibility (Ezek. 18:1-2)

There are proverbs we use today that we might think came from the Bible, when in fact, they did not. For example, "The Lord helps those who help

themselves" is not a Bible verse, but we still hear people using it like it is. In fact, there are numerous verses that basically teach "The Lord helps those who cannot help themselves" (Psalm 40:2, Romans 7:18, Philippians 3:3).

The nation of Israel had erroneous proverbs, also. The proverb of verse 2 is also mentioned in Jeremiah 31:29 and Jeremiah's response is the same as Ezekiel's. God's message is the same to all — each of us bears the responsibility for his own sins.

It is not certain how this proverb originated. Perhaps it came from the Law, "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation



Schuman

of them that hate me." (Exodus 20:5; also Deuteronomy 5:9)

Had the Israelites of Ezekiel's day considered all the Scripture they would have also found: "The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers:

every man shall be put to death for his own sin" (Deuteronomy 24:16). That verse alone nullifies their popular proverb.

Is there a contradiction between Exodus 20:5 and Deuteronomy 24:16? No. The punishment for sins is not passed on to other generations, but the consequences of one's sins may be passed on to other generations. Exodus warns of the consequences of sin on succeeding generations. Deuteronomy declares the accountability of sin on the guilty individual.

Nevertheless, this proverb had become popular among the people. The generation to whom Ezekiel preached believed they were punished for the sins of the previous generations. To them, it

was not fair that they would suffer for the sins of their fathers.

#### 2. Declaring Responsibility (18:3-4)

Ezekiel replied to the people that they would not suffer for their father's sins; they would suffer for their own sins. He also prophesied that their little old byword would go bye-bye.

The key verse, verse 4, is an excellent verse to memorize and share in witnessing. Along with Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord," these verses emphasize the seriousness of sin.

#### 3. Demonstrating Responsibility (18:5-10,13b)

Someone has said, "We increase our ability, stability, and responsibility when we increase our sense of accountability to God." A necessary step to salvation is accepting responsibility for sin. There won't be finger pointing at the judgment at anyone but self.

Concerning responsibility, it matters not who your family is. One brought up in an ungodly home can believe in Jesus Christ and be saved. Likewise, one

brought up in a Christian home must also repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved. Your family can influence you, but they cannot save you. Neither a million years of prayers nor a million burning candles from your family will rescue the lost soul from everlasting destruction. Baptism for the dead saves no one. Indulgences save no one. Each one of us is personally responsible for our decision about what we will do with Jesus. "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12).

We, as believers in Jesus Christ, have another responsibility. We are responsible for shining His Light in this dark world. 1 Peter 2:10 — "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." Let us demonstrate our responsibility to our Savior and Lord.

Schuman is pastor of Hamilton Church, Ashland.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

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All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

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## Adrian Rogers undergoes medical tests

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Adrian Rogers, a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, concluded tests on June 15 at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, to confirm a diagnosis of colon cancer that had spread onto his liver. Rogers, age 73, who retired earlier this year as pastor of Bellevue Church in Cordova, Tn., entered the facility on June 13. "This is not a doomsday report," Bill Skelton, executive vice president of Rogers' Love Worth Finding radio and TV ministry, told Baptist Press. Skelton said Rogers is scheduled to preach at Bellevue's two Father's Day worship services on June 19 and at the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in Nashville on June 20.

Surgeons removed part of Rogers' colon May 16 after cancerous polyps were found in a routine colonoscopy. Subsequent tests revealed that the cancer had spread onto his liver, which Skelton differentiated from liver cancer.

In addition to confirming the diagnosis, physicians at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center will prescribe a chemotherapy treatment plan, Skelton said.

# Leaders survey progress since '64 slayings

PHILADELPHIA, Miss. (BP and local reports) — Jimmy Porter knows the apprehensions in his hometown of Philadelphia as an alleged Ku Klux Klansman goes on trial for plotting the 1964 murders of three civil rights workers.

"It was a very difficult climate in which to try to have a trial back in the 1960s," said Porter, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's Christian Action Commission (CAC), "but there's still a lot of uncertainty about it. A lot of people say, 'What good's going to come out of it?' There's a lot of questions in people's minds."

To Porter, who also is serving as an interim pastor of a church 15 miles from Philadelphia, "I look at it as a wound that will never heal until it's cleaned out and this, hopefully, will bring closure to it. It's just something that would never go away and the people of Neshoba County would like to get beyond it."

Opening arguments began June 15 in the trial of Edgar Ray Killen, age 80, a part-time independent Baptist preacher charged in the June 1964 slayings of civil rights workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner.

Seven local men were convicted in the case in 1967, among 18 charged. Killen's trial on federal charges ended in a hung jury.

Dan Howard, pastor of First Church, Philadelphia, also sees mixed emotions in the community about the proceedings, as some have questioned dredging up past unpleasantness, while others think the issue should be settled.

"There's some healing that needs to be done," said Howard, whose church is located two blocks from the courthouse where Killen is on trial. "I hope that it's going to bring some kind of closure to this."

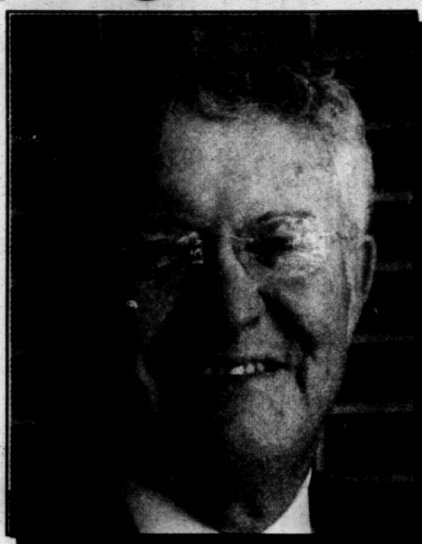
The trial has prompted worldwide attention. Reporters from dozens of media outlets have descended on the town of 7,300, including crews from as far away as England, Sweden, and South Korea.

Residents seem to be taking it in stride, Howard said. Beyond the media, there was no unusual influx of curiosity seekers the day jury selection began.

Porter, noting that most area residents never associated with the Klan, countered a popular misconception that the KKK is as popular as it was in 1964. Instead, he said, the white supremacist organization is dying out amid a changing world.

"You've got people who are more aware that we have got to live in a world where there are going to be people who are different, whose ideas are different," said Porter, who has been with the Christian Action Commission since 2000. "Times have changed. A lot of actions of people back in those days... were driven by fear."

That fear particularly included change, he said. Looking



Porter

back on his childhood, anything that came out of the North — two of the three victims were from New York — was suspect, Porter said.

During his high school days, Porter said nobody discussed disparities between black and white or African Americans' voting problems. "Separate but equal" was just the way of life in the South, Porter said, acknowledging that things were not always equal.

Working with a man who delivered bread to black and white grocery stores at the time, Porter said he never experienced hostility or problems calling on any customers. The killings of the civil rights workers "totally caught the whole town and county by surprise," Porter said. "It was one of those things that you never dreamed... would happen."

Today, Mississippi has moved far beyond 1964 in the area of race relations, said Porter, whose agency oversees moral concerns, including race. While no state is perfect, Porter said there have been great strides since then, including multi-racial cooperation by various denominations.

"Whether people realize it or not, we do have African American Southern Baptist churches in Mississippi," Porter said. "We work very closely with African American pastors, trying to provide leadership and help for them just like we would any other congregation. There's been a concerted effort to try to work together and to minister to one another."

Like Howard, Porter believes the church has gradually brought healing to the community.

For Paul G. Jones II, the murder trial of Edgar Ray Killen brings fulfillment to a racial reconciliation effort that began the summer that the three civil rights workers were slain.

Jones is executive director of the Mississippi Religious Leaders Conference (MRLC), which was formed after the 1964 slayings. He is also a former CAC executive director and currently serves as pastor of Beulah Memorial Church, Bolton.

Originally called the Committee of Concern, MRLC sought to address the murders and other hate crimes. One of

the three organizers was Bill Davis, director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's department of black church relations, which later was folded into the work of the convention's Christian Action Commission.

Jones said he looks for several positive developments from the current trial, calling it significant that the state is standing against one of the most heinous crimes in its history.

"I hope this will be an example of the Christian community coming together and saying, 'Let's do what's right,'" said Jones.



Jones



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